

OUR SOVEREIGN LORD: ALL HISTORY IS HIS STORY

Ephesians 1:7-11; 2:6-10

GOD IS WITH US . . . EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT

Psalm 46:1-3,7 *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... ⁷The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”*

GOD’S PLAN EXTENDS FAR BEYOND CREATION AND SALVATION

GOD, YOUR CREATOR, IS CREATING SOMETHING EPIC . . .

Ephesians 2:8-10 *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

“Handiwork” or “workmanship” = poiema = “masterpiece” Prized literary compositions

Ephesians 2:6-7 *“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”*

The Greek verb for “to show” is endeiknymi (en-dike-nu-mee), which also means, “to display, to demonstrate.” This verb is also used in 1 Timothy 1:16, *“But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might **display** his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. (ESV)”*

YES, EACH OF US HAS A STORY . . . BUT ARE WE MORE THAN THAT?

1. God is not merely the Creator of your life. He is also the Author/Orchestrator of your life.
2. Just as any story is not made up of random events, your life isn’t random.
3. As you grow to know God’s story in you, you can more intentionally join God as co-author.
4. The telling of your story is meant to be used to bless others and glorify God.

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Proverbs 16:33 *“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.”*

Proverbs 19:21 *“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”*

Lamentations 3:37 *“Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?”*

Isaiah 46:10 *“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’”*

Psalms 139:14, 16 *“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made . . . all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”*

Acts 17:26 *“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.”*

SOME QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DEVOTION:

1. What was your reaction and your family’s reaction to the news this week? Why is it important for us to cling to the promise that God is with us? How does this promise strengthen you, if it does, during this time?
2. The truth that God is with you means much more than “His Presence is everywhere, including with me.” How is God’s Presence with you and how ought that to affect how you live out your day?
3. Read Ephesians 1:7-11 and 2:6-10. God’s plan to save you is part of His much bigger plan. If God saved us *from* something *for* something, what do you think God’s ultimate purpose is?
4. What items do you “have on display” at your house? (Paintings, photos, trophies, souvenirs, etc.) What do these items say about you? According to Ephesians 2:7, God aims to “display” the incomparable riches of his grace towards us for all eternity. Try to imagine what this teaching means and write down why this truth should encourage and motivate you to live your life with more gusto for God.
5. Do you believe that in some way, your life is God’s Story in the making? Why or why not? What makes for a good story? What makes for a bad story, or a tragedy?